

## ABSTRACT

Methods of cloning and/or amplifying toxic genes in bacteria using a vector which amplifies the toxic gene in bacteria and also allows subsequent expression in mammalian systems is provided. A vector having an origin of replication, a first promoter, a polylinker, a second promoter in reverse orientation with respect to the first promoter, a polyadenylation signal, and a gene encoding a selectable marker, and optionally an enhancer operably connected to the first promoter, and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding a toxic protein is also provided.

[illegible]